



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 8, 2008
Week Ending: September 7, 2008
CWP WA-CW3408

Apple Harvest Begins While Late Nectarine Picking Continued Winter Wheat Harvest Neared Completion

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Improved weather conditions allowed grain harvest to continue. Winter wheat seeding had begun, and reports ranged from very dry to adequate seed zone moisture. Adams County reported some producers were waiting to seed winter wheat until more moisture arrived. The third cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and reported aphid infestations in Grand and Noble fir. Grays Harbor County reported tulip and daffodil growers were planting bulbs. Spokane County reported pea and lentil harvest continued.

Fruits and Vegetables

Chelan and Ferry Counties reported pear harvest was in progress. Chelan County reported apple harvest was ramping up to full speed as the week progressed. Reported quality was very good and yields appeared to be good. Labor was adequate, but more would be needed over the next six weeks. Klickitat County reported peach harvest continued and late season nectarine harvest was about to start. Grapes were ripening past veraison and were two or three weeks from harvest. Rain delayed blueberry harvest. Blueberries suffered from splitting and some fruit droppage was reported.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 33 percent poor, 25 percent fair and 35 percent good. Pend Oreille County reported livestock were still fattening on green pastures with little if any supplemental feeding. Stevens County noted cattle and calves continued to market due to high feed costs.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	5.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	17	36	47	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	26	35	37	2
Subsoil	22	51	27	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	34	48	0
Irrigation Water	0	9	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	9	86	0
Hay & Roughage	18	23	56	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	83	67	98	98
Winter Wheat Planted	23	2	32	25
Winter Wheat Harvested	96	87	100	99
Barley Harvested	75	62	99	98
Potatoes Harvested	40	37	51	51
Field Corn Doughed	60	58	67	78
Field Corn Dented	15	14	50	55
Field Corn Mature	8	7	25	27
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	19	13	19	19
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	36	35	51	42
Dry Peas Harvested	92	91	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	100	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	67	66	90	92
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	9	7	14	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	3	50	47	0
Corn	0	3	36	61	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	9	45	46	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperatures were in the 60s for the high and in the 40s for the low. Crops were progressing normally.

Gray Harbor: A week of warm, sunny weather with no rain resulted in a flurry of agricultural activities. Forage producers took advantage of the warm temperatures to make a final cutting of hay. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and reported aphid infestations in Grand and Noble fir. Tulip and daffodil growers were planting bulbs. Sweet corn growers reported the warm weather helped kernel development. Dairy producers continued pumping liquid manure from their storage lagoons to forage fields. Home gardeners reported aggressive yellow jacket and wasp activity.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Fall was approaching, and harvest was beginning for grains. Sweet corn was being harvested. Home orchardists expect to have a bumper crop of fruit this year.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomish/North King: Weather conditions throughout the week were good for fieldwork. Potato harvest progressed as pumpkins continued to ripen.

Sweet corn harvest was underway, and local corn mazes were gearing up for the busy season.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was cooler in the evenings, with lows in the 40s and lower 50s. Daytime temperatures were in the 60s. Crops were still slow in recovering.

Thurston: Sunny weather with no rain provided a bonanza to agricultural producers who were involved in harvest operations. Cereal grain producers were combining fields under nearly ideal conditions. Livestock producers took advantage of the warm temperatures to take a final cutting of hay for the year. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing and harvesting established fields. Christmas tree growers reported bee activity in Noble and Grand fir as a result of aphid infestations. U-Pick pumpkin farms were pleased to see temperatures once again in the 80s which helped pumpkins mature. Home gardeners were kept busy picking apples, pears, and plums.

Whatcom: Producers were able to get back into fields because of drier conditions. Potato harvest began. The fourth cutting of grass silage was being harvested. Raspberry growers were busy tying, pruning, and removing acres of older plants.

Central

Chelan: Pear and apple harvest was in full swing. Quality was reported to be very good, and yields appeared to be about average. Labor was adequate, but more help will be required over the next six weeks.

Douglas/Chelan: Winter wheat harvest was coming to an end. Moisture for the 2009 winter wheat seeding was below normal. Pear and early variety apples were being harvested. Fall pastures were dry, and temperatures were average for this time of year.

Klickitat: There was perfect late summer weather nearly all week with daytime highs in the 70s and 80s and overnight lows in the 40s. Grain harvest continued to progress without delay. Irrigation was turned off, and hay fields were awaiting the last cutting. River and stream flows were still adequate, and some producers were running sprinklers on new

hay plantings. In orchards, peach harvest continued and late nectarine harvest was ready to begin. Fruit and grapes were ripening better. Irrigation and spraying continued for brown rot and powdery mildew. Grapes were past veraison and two to three weeks away from harvest. Cattle were rotated to new stubble fields, and barnyard cleanup was underway with manure spread onto resting pasture ground.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was warm and dry during the week. Farmers began to work on fall planting.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from six degrees below normal to three degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.



Eastern

Adams: Conditions remained very dry as seeding progressed. Most winter wheat seeding that remained will be seeded after precipitation or dusted in.

Adams (2nd Report): Very little seeding was done on dry land due to short subsoil moisture levels.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather remained dry, allowing farmers to complete the grain harvest in most areas. Rain was needed to restore soil moisture for planting winter wheat and to provide fall grazing.

Ferry: Weather conditions were dry. Nights were clear and frost occurred several mornings in higher elevations.

Ferry (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest wound down, and winter wheat seeding was 50 percent complete. Pear harvest was in progress.

Garfield: All wheat and barley was harvested except for acreage in the Blue Mountains. Producers were worried about moisture for fall seeding and also worried about weed germination.

Lincoln: Harvest was nearly finished, and attention was being focused on winter wheat seeding. Conditions were variable with reports of very dry conditions to adequate seed zone moisture.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvesting continued with mostly good conditions. However, rain will be needed for fall planting and to revitalize pastures for fall grazing.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Dry seeding conditions prevailed.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 69 degrees and the low was 26 degrees with a trace of precipitation. The second and third cuttings of alfalfa and grass hay were being harvested on irrigated land. Livestock were fattening up on green pastures with little to no supplemental feeding yet. Poultry were still laying numerous hatchlings this season.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of fall-type weather with only one rain event helped to get the winter wheat harvested. Some spring wheat was harvested, but green areas were still not able to be harvested. Pea and lentil harvest was scheduled to begin soon as was the seeding of the 2009 winter wheat crop.

Stevens: A few hay producers were still baling the third cutting. Grain harvest was nearly complete. Calves and cows continued to be sent to market.

Walla Walla: Harvest was done. Conditions were really dry, and farmers were thinking about dusting in. The third cutting of alfalfa was winding down. Mountain pastures were still looking pretty good.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Most producers were finished with harvest. Yields overall were average. Preparations were underway for seeding.

Whitman: Weather conditions improved to allow harvesting activity to continue. However, warm days and cool nights made up for late morning starts. Most harvest activity was wrapping up in the central and eastern parts of the county. Yield reports were average to below average.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of September 1 - 7, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT DFN	BASE-60F TOT DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS		
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	41	78	57	-3	51 -18	5 -9	0.00	-0.38	0	29.88	-6.72	82	180		
Everett	49	71	59	-2	66 -8	5 -10	0.00	-0.44	0	34.81	-2.21	94	199		
Hoquiam	46	80	59	-4	64 -13	5 -16	0.00	-0.59	0	58.75	-9.81	86	206		
Kelso	45	82	61	-2	80 -8	17 -11	0.00	-0.49	0	32.08	-15.01	68	143		
Olympia	42	77	59	-2	67 -6	8 -7	0.00	-0.44	0	44.56	-6.53	87	178		
Seattle-Tacoma	49	76	62	-2	81 -10	15 -11	0.00	-0.38	0	36.35	-1.27	97	171		
Shelton	43	81	61	-3	76 -12	10 -17	0.00	-0.49	0	59.61	-5.81	91	175		
Tacoma WA AP	42	74	58	-5	57 -27	4 -17	0.00	-0.42	0	33.25	-7.48	82	159		
Vancouver WA	45	89	65	+3	105 +18	38 +13	0.18	-0.24	1	37.06	-4.72	89	164		
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	40	82	64	+3	101 +12	33 +1	0.00	-0.13	0	6.94	-2.14	76	69		
Omak AP	39	81	63	+2	94 +10	28 -2	0.00	-0.21	0	7.99	-7.30	52	68		
Stampede Pass	39	69	52	-1	18 -13	0 -7	0.00	-0.67	0	74.59	-7.19	91	204		
Wenatchee	47	81	66	-2	111 -13	41 -15	0.00	-0.14	0	4.33	-4.14	51	45		
Yakima AP	41	85	64	-1	97 -3	29 -11	0.00	-0.14	0	6.15	-1.97	76	64		
NORTHEAST															
Colville	38	78	59	-2	68 -9	5 -21	0.00	-0.28	0	17.55	-3.98	82	128		
Deer Park	32	75	55	-8	40 -51	0 -35	0.00	-0.21	0	21.21	+2.44	113	140		
Republic	39	77	60	+3	74 +11	12 -6	0.00	-0.24	0	12.03	-4.13	74	107		
Spokane AP	40	75	60	-3	74 -18	11 -25	0.04	-0.17	1	16.74	+0.01	100	127		
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	83	66	-4	110 -21	42 -21	0.00	-0.07	0	4.41	-2.89	60	71		
Moses Lake	40	81	63	-6	96 -35	29 -34	0.00	-0.07	0	4.37	-2.93	60	70		
Quincy	42	79	64	-2	100 -10	34 -12	0.00	-0.14	0	7.11	-0.86	89	73		
Ritzville	37	78	59	-6	63 -34	7 -31	0.00	-0.11	0	9.39	-2.05	82	90		
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	43	87	67	-6	118 -38	48 -36	0.00	-0.11	0	3.94	-2.68	60	47		
Pasco	40	85	63	-7	89 -39	22 -40	0.00	-0.12	0	7.11	-0.52	93	72		
Pullman	38	76	57	-5	53 -29	3 -27	0.00	-0.21	0	18.35	-2.98	86	123		
Walla Walla Rgn	47	82	65	-4	110 -23	40 -25	0.00	-0.21	0	13.84	-5.89	70	112		
Whitman Mission	37	84	60	-6	69 -36	8 -35	0.00	-0.14	0	12.21	-1.71	88	116		
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	47	81	65	-4	109 -19	39 -24	0.00	-0.21	0	8.36	-4.31	66	100		

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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